

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**EMERGENCY REFERENCE MARKERS TO BE INSTALLED ON INTERSTATE 93  
TEST SECTION FROM SALEM TO MANCHESTER AIMS TO IMPROVE  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE ALONG BUSY CORRIDOR**

Motorists driving on an 18-mile section of Interstate 93 in New Hampshire will soon be able to more accurately convey the location of a highway incident to emergency personnel.

The implementation of a new Emergency Reference Marker Program is set to begin the week of July 15, 2002 with the installation of highway signs that will provide information to assist motorists in identifying their location by providing the direction, route and mile location of travel.

This test program from the New Hampshire/Massachusetts state line in Salem to the I-93/I-293 split in Manchester is part of an overall incident management plan for the Interstate 93 corridor. It is a coordinated and cooperative effort between the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, NH State Police and local emergency response agencies to improve safety along this busy corridor.

"The Emergency Reference Marker Program is a great complement to the E-911 System," says NHDOT Project Manager Jim Colburn. "Emergency response personnel along the I-93 corridor say motorists reporting an incident often cannot pinpoint their location or give conflicting information, thus delaying the response. This is a high speed, high traffic volume highway and anything we can do to improve emergency response time to the scene has the potential to save lives as well as clear the road faster and prevent congestion and secondary crashes."

There will be two sizes of emergency response markers installed at two-tenths of a mile increments (five per mile) along both the northbound and southbound directions on the median side of the highway. The larger signs (18 inches wide by 42 inches tall) at each mile mark will include the direction of travel, route information and the mile number. The smaller signs (14 inches wide by 24 inches tall) will show the last mile number and the tenths of a mile from the last mile marker. The sign colors will be white on a green background.

The installation of the emergency reference markers is expected to take four days to complete. Some northbound and southbound lane closures may be required. L & C Flashing Barricades of Avon, Massachusetts is the contractor for the \$69,000 project.